

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 0690

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CSCE CVIS CGEN SHUM SCUL PL US
SUBJ: DENIAL OF POLISH VISAS TO AMERICANS

REFS: (A) STATE 009713; (B) WARSAW 0417; (C) STATE 016978

1. ON JANUARY 24, THE CHIEF OF THE EMBASSY'S CONSULAR SECTION CALLED ON VICE DIRECTOR MICKIEWICZ OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S CONSULAR DEPARTMENT TO DISCUSS THE CASES OF DR. AND MRS. ANDRZEJ SZECHTER AND JULIA ZIEMECKI. IN HIS DEMARCHE, EMBOFF STRESSED THE POINTS IN REF C IN CONNECTION WITH THE SZECHTER CASE AND RECAPITULATED THE POINTS IN REF A CONCERNING JULIA ZIEMECKI'S WISH TO VISIT HER PARENTS IN WARSAW.

2. MICKIEWICZ SAID HE HAD INVESTIGATED THE ZIEMECKI CASE AND LEARNED THAT MRS. BRUN HAD A FRACTURED LEG. HER CONDITION WAS THEREFORE CONSIDERED AS NOT CRITICAL BY THE "RESPONSIBLE POLISH AUTHORITIES". EMBOFF NOTED THAT THE CONDITION OF THIS OLD LADY WAS NOT AN APPROPRIATE REASON FOR DENIAL OF WHAT IS OBVIOUSLY A FAMILY VISIT UNDER THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. MICKIEWICZ SAID HE PERSONALLY AGREED. HOWEVER, THE "AUTHORITIES THAT COUNTED" CONSIDERED MS. ZIEMECKI AS AN UNWANTED PERSON IN POLAND. MICKIEWICZ DID NOT KNOW WHY THIS WAS SO. HE IMPLIED THAT "UN-

WANTED" PERSONS COULD ONLY COME HERE IF THE FAMILY VISIT WAS TO A CRITICALLY ILL CLOSE RELATIVE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 WARSAW 00690 260851Z

3. ON THE SZECHTER CASE, MICKIEWICZ SAID POLISH COURTS RARELY APPROVE ADOPTIONS OF POLISH CHILDREN BY FOREIGNERS ABROAD. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE EMBASSY'S INTEREST IS ONLY IN THE DENIAL OF THE VISA. HE AGREED TO INVESTIGATE THE BACKGROUND OF THE CASE AND COMMUNICATE WITH US WHEN HE LEARNED WHAT WAS INVOLVED. MICKIEWICZ THEN RECALLED THAT A MAN NAMED SZECHTER HAD BEEN

ACCUSED OF "UNPLEASANT MANIFESTATIONS" DURING SOME STUDENT RIOTS
HERE IN THE 1960'S. HE DID NOT KNOW IF THIS WAS THE SAME PERSON,
SINCE SZECHTER IS A COMMON NAME IN POLAND. HE ASKED FOR MRS.
SZECHTER'S FIRST NAME. (NOTE: PLEASE SEND THIS NAME AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE. END NOTE). MICKIEWICZ AGREED TO CHECK THIS CASE WITH
THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES.

4. EMBOFF SAID WE REGRETTED THE DECISION IN THE ZIEMECKI CASE
AND WE STILL HOPE THE POLES WILL RECONSIDER THE VISA APPLICATION
AND LET HER VISIT HER MOTHER. HE ALSO URGED SPEEDY RECONSIDER-
ATION AND APPROVAL OF THE VISAS FOR THE SZECHTERS, REEMPHASIZING
THE POINTS IN PARA 6 OF REF C.

5. COMMENT: MICKIEWICZ CLEARLY INDICATED THAT THE FOREIGN MIN-
ISTRY HAS LITTLE INFLUENCE IN CASES OF THIS KIND. HE ALSO SAID
HE RECOGNIZED THAT SUCH CASES REPRESENTED WHAT HE AND HIS
COLLEAGUES IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY CONSIDER UNNECESSARY IRRITANTS
IN POLISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS.

6. WE CANNOT YET COMMENT ON WHETHER THE DENIAL OF THE VISAS IN
THE SZECHTER CASE IS RELATED TO ANTI-SEMITISM. NEITHER CAN WE
YET ESTABLISH THAT THERE IS A CONSISTENT PATTERN OF DENIAL OF
VISAS TO JEWISH AMERICANS FROM POLAND. WE WILL WATCH THIS ASPECT
OF POLISH CONSULAR PRACTICES CAREFULLY OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL
MONTHS. END COMMENT.

DAVIES

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 WARSAW 00690 260851Z

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